



Nests

Spring has sprung or will do so very soon. Plants are emerging and baby animals are being born. Many animals have begun the reproductive process well before spring and their young are maturing quickly. Other animals will just now begin the process. Either way, most animals construct or build nests. Nests are the spaces animals primarily use to raise their young and they are not just for birds! People are fascinated by animal nests and have given them some very interesting names: SETT, FORM, DREY, EYRIE, LODGE, NEST, and HIVE.

Some of these names or terms may be familiar and others, not so much. The more one reads about nests the more one realizes the uniqueness of each animal and their needs, hence the many different nest shapes, sizes, materials used, placement, and in the human world, names.

In the world of birds, the nests vary as much as the species of birds, and they are amazing feats of architecture, considering it is all done with beaks and feet. A hummingbird's nest is made new each year and is composed of lichen and mosses woven together with spider silk. It is often attached to the "v" of a branch, high in a tree. Finding this tiny nest is like winning the lottery - very lucky. On the opposite end of

the spectrum an eagle's nest, referred to as an eyrie, is very large and made up of branches and twigs, grasses, and lined with mosses and even their own feathers. It is used over and over again and can reach the size of a Volkswagen beetle car.

Beyond the world of birds there are amazing nest-building feats of other animals. Beavers are well known for constructing elaborate lodges. And those messy-looking mounds of leaves you see each winter high in the trees are often dreys or squirrel nests. Many bees are communal and by mixing their saliva with wood make paper to build a hive, with a labyrinth of chambers or cells within for eggs. See if you can learn which animals are associated with nests called sett and form.

Enjoy this springtime with its renewal of life in the outdoors. Visit Runge to learn more about nests and walk on the trails to see if you can spot any. You might just win the nature lottery!

—Robin Grumm,
Assistant Nature
Center Manager



Volunteer News

Helping you connect with nature.

2015 Awards Ceremony

Runge volunteers and staff celebrated the many programs, events, and projects that took place this past year at the annual Volunteer Gathering in early December.



◀ Robin Grumm, Volunteer Coordinator, presented Ethan Regan with the Volunteer of the Year award.



▲ Taliaa Pendergrass and Becky Matney presented the Polaris Award to Dylan Davio and Lynn Shively for their contributions as volunteers who are steady and reliable with the work they do for the nature center.



▲ Trana Madsen presented Laura Richardson with the Deneb Award for the volunteer who shines brightly. The award was voted on by the new 2015 class.



▲ Donna Wankum and Stacy Kemper presented Jim Smith with the Altair Award for his dedication to assisting the support staff with their duties.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for their hours of service:

100 hours –
Lauri Carr

200 hours –
Dan Bernskoetter

300 hours –
Dylan Davio

1000 hours –
Leslie Seifert

Thank You!

Look for your program under one of these headings –

Little Ones
(0-6 years)

Kids for Conservation
(7-12 years)

Teens for Conservation
(13-17 years)

Adults
(18+ years)

All Ages

Mixed Age Groups

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri. 573-526-5544 <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

BUILDING HOURS: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM **Closed Sunday, Monday and all State Holidays.**

TRAIL HOURS: Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

Lobby Exhibit

Missouri's Wildflower Wonders

by Leslie Limberg



What is a naturalist and wildlife artist to do when it's too cold outside? Paint indoors!

Missouri has a staggering diversity of wildflowers. From the minuscule 5-inch Spring beauty to the 8-foot tall Cup plant. All are unique and worthy of hanging in an art gallery.

Come see our March-April exhibit featuring some of Missouri's wildflower wonders from the collection of Leslie Limberg, a certified Master Naturalist and Master Gardener.



West Wing

Leslie will also be displaying 15 of her mammal paintings in our West Wing for your viewing pleasure.

Runge Area Plan Open House

March 15, Tuesday, 6-8 PM

The Runge Conservation Nature Center area management plan is being updated and we are interested in your comments, questions, and input. This draft plan focuses on the grounds of the nature center and not the facility or educational programs. The public is invited to visit with staff on various topics including Deer/Wildlife Issues, Habitat Management, and Trails. Stop by anytime between 6-8 PM for refreshments and some good discussion. The draft area plan will also be available online for public comment March 1-31 at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.

Scout Packs

Get outside and explore.

Cub Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Tiger Adventure Pack: Backyard Jungle/Tigers in the Wild

Bear Adventure Pack: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns

Wolf Adventure Pack: Paws on the Path

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Woods/Walkabout

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Wild

March Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Tuesday, March 1st**, for the March programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Backyard Birds

Backyard birds are fun to watch. Fly in to learn about and view these feathered friends.

Babes in the Woods

March 4 • Friday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

March 17 • Thursday • 6–7 PM

March 29 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

Little Acorns PLUS

March 11 • Friday • 10–11 AM

Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.

Kids for Conservation

Field Trip: Burr Oak Woods Nature Center

March 24 • Thursday • 8:15 AM–4 PM

Registration required (ages 7-12 years)
Let's take a field trip to Blue Springs, MO to Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center (MDC). We will become a nature detective and discover clues to Missouri mammals in the program "Mammal Mysteries." The program includes a hike, exploring the nature center, and a mammal relay game. **Please arrive by 8:15 AM.** We will leave promptly at 8:30 AM and return by 4:00 PM. **Dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch and water bottle.** Permission forms are available online (<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center/permission-forms>) or at the nature center. Fifty spaces available.

Adults

Ozark Trails Association Workshop

March 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–4 PM

To register, go to OTA's website: www.OzarkTrail.com. (ages 18 and older)

Hosted by MDC and the Ozark Trail Association (OTA), spend the morning learning about the Ozark Trail's history and sections. Choose from exciting breakout sessions in the afternoon. For session topics and more details visit the OTA website.

River Bluffs Audubon Society: Turkey Talk

March 10 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

No registration required (ages 18 and older)

The River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Jason Isabelle, Resource Scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, who will speak about the turkey research in northern Missouri.

Midweek Trekkers

March 16 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Graham Cave State Park** in Montgomery County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 3.5 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

Color Your Natural World

March 16 • Wednesday • 11 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Warmer weather is coming. Join us as we ponder the creation of bird nests for spring egg laying. We'll explore a variety of diverse homes that animals need for their young while we relax and color. Spend some fun time with us embellishing sheets with colored pencils we provide or bring your own.

Nature's Needlers

March 17 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

In March, love is in the air. Learn about a seldom observed courtship display by one of Missouri's elusive residents. (It's a surprise!) Join us in sharing tips and tricks about quilting.

The Hikers

March 19 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Three Creeks Conservation Area** in Boone County and hike a few trails on the area. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 7.5 miles. *Terrain:* Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

March Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.



All Ages

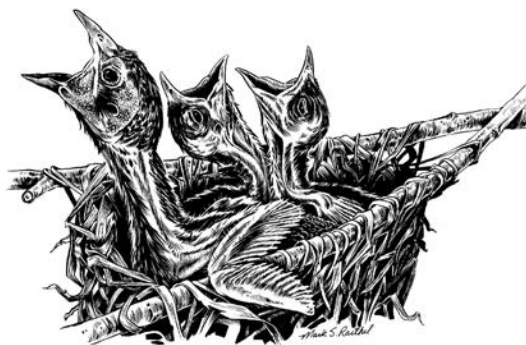
What's Going On?

Nests: Not Just for Birds!

March 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

When we think of nests, birds usually come to mind. Discover other Missouri animals that use and create nests to raise their young through activities and displays. Join a naturalist on a discovery walk at 1 PM to search for different nests along a Runge trail.



Aquarium and Snapping Turtle Feeding

March 25 • Friday • 1:30 PM

No registration required.

The animals are hungry! Join us and watch as we feed the aquarium fish and snapping turtles.

Grow Native! Plant Sale at Runge

March 26 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Welcome to our annual native plant sale! It's time to purchase and plant beautiful and hardy flowers, shrubs, and trees for your home or business. The sale is a partnership with the *Grow Native!* program through the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Vendors are available to sell and provide you with answers to your native planting questions. More details on back page.

Spring Symphony

March 31 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required.

The sounds of spring are a welcome symphony following a cold, silent winter. After a short inside program, we will go on an evening walk to listen and identify members of the symphony.

Mixed Age Groups

Intro to Turkey Hunting

March 12 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Get ready for spring turkey season. Learn about hunting methods, clothing, scouting, and wild turkey biology.

Adventure Birding: Woodcocks at Runge

March 12 • Saturday • 5:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Timber Doodles, Bog Suckers, Sky Dancers, and Mud Bats—all common names for this remarkable bird, the American Woodcock. We will learn about these unusual birds and observe their amazing and legendary spring courtship flights at dusk. It may be cold, so dress for the weather (we will provide hot chocolate). Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. This program will be on-site at Runge Nature Center.

Adventure Birding: Turkey Calling at Runge

March 26 • Saturday • 6–9 AM

Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Rise and shine! Join us early in the morning to learn about turkey communication and try calling one in. Meet at the outdoor staging area. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

March 26 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Painted Rock Conservation Area**, located in Osage County, and hike a trail. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Trail Length: 1.6 miles.

Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots.

Gift Shop

March and April 20% off featured item.



Missouri Wildflowers field guide

\$11.20
plus tax*

If you are a devotee of the state's native plants, you'll love *Missouri Wildflowers*. Colored tabs on page edges make it easier locating flower-color groups. Descriptions cover plant characteristics, habitat and range.

*The Heritage Card does not apply.

April Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Friday, April 1st**, for the April programs.
Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Rainbow Romp

Celebrate spring by searching for the colors of the rainbow this month. We will walk a trail and see how many colors in nature we can find. Be ready to look up, down, and all around!

Babes in the Woods

April 15 • Thursday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

April 7 • Thursday • 10–11 AM
April 20 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

Little Acorns PLUS

April 8 • Friday • 10–11 AM
Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.

New Opportunity! Nature Explore

April 28 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 0-6 years)
Visit our new Nature Explore Area on the Naturescape Trail. Staff will be available this evening to demonstrate new items. Build with small blocks or large sticks. Climb. Balance. Investigate. It's all natural!



Teens for Conservation

Let's Go Birding!

April 16 • Saturday • 8–11 AM
Registration required (ages 13-17 years)
It is the peak of spring migration in the bird world. Who knows what we will see! It's the best time for birding! Wear sturdy shoes, bring your binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours), and a water bottle. We will spend the morning tromping around Runge and the adjoining central office complex. Meet in the outdoor staging area.

Adults

Color Your Natural World

April 12 • Tuesday • 1:30–2:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
Have you noticed increased insect activity? Join us as we reflect on how bugs are preparing for spring egg laying. We'll explore a variety of diverse homes that insects need for their young while we relax and color. Spend some fun time with us embellishing sheets with colored pencils we provide or bring your own.

Morning Bird Walk

April 19 • Tuesday • 8–11 AM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
For those unable to make the Saturday Adventure Birding programs, this is for you! Meet in the outdoor staging area at Runge and be prepared to walk the trails here. We hope to see vireos, warblers, and other spring migrants. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours.

Midweek Trekkers

April 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Meramec Conservation Area** in Franklin County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 6 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

Book Discussion: The Animal Dialogues: "Uncommon Encounters in the Wild"

April 20 • Wednesday • 1:30–2:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Pick up a copy of this dramatic book by Craig Childs and join our discussion. We will focus our chat on the essays about animals native to Missouri. After reading Child's vivid words, share your opinion about this frequent contributor to National Public Radio and his insight into wild animals, ranging from bears and raccoons to bald eagles and hummingbirds.

April Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Nature's Needlers

April 21 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

In the warming days of April, mushrooms begin to appear in the forests. The mushroom is the subject of our fourth block in the series, "The Seasons of Nature." Both beginners and experienced quilters will enjoy sharing ideas.

The Hikers

April 23 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Clifty Creek Conservation Area** in Maries County and then to **Painted Rock Conservation Area** in Osage County to explore. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 6 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

All Ages

What's Going On?

What does the Fox...DO?

April 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Come on into Runge and join in some fox adventures. Learn the differences of the two foxes in Missouri and how they care for their young, through activities, crafts, and discovery tables.

What's Going On?

Beautiful Bird Nests

April 9 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Nests - woven, mud-covered, large or small - all are unique. Discovery tables, mounts, and hands-on activities will help visitors enjoy these amazing architectural feats.

Puppet Show: Let's Hear It for Herps

April 9 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM

No registration required.

Some of Missouri's most fascinating herptiles are active now that spring is here. Midland Brown Snake and Three-toed Box Turtle disagree with each other about how some people treat amphibians and reptiles. Come hear what they talk about with American Toad, Bullfrog, and their friends. See if you figure out why their opinions are different.

Mixed Age Groups

Adventure Birding: Warblers and Other Migrants

April 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Prairie Garden Trust, located in New Bloomfield, is a beautiful area with many different habitats and known as a birding hotspot for warblers and other spring migrants. These tiny singers are a challenge for everyone, but with lots of eyes and teamwork we can enjoy them as they make their journey north. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at Runge to carpool.



Half-Day Discovery Hikes

April 30 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Rockbridge Memorial State Park**, located in Columbia, and hike the Shooting Star Trail. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. *Notes:* The focus of this hike will be identifying spring flowers.

Reminders...



Essentials for Runge Hiking Programs

Hikers need:

1. Appropriate footwear – trail shoes or hiking boots.
2. Water – 2 water bottles or 70 oz. reservoir.
3. Food – lunch, plus nuts, energy bars, or dried fruits.
4. Appropriate clothing – dress in layers, carry a hat, be prepared for rain.
5. Insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm, and personal medications.

Optional: walking sticks, camera, binoculars, etc.



Grow Native! Plant Sale

Free and open to the public.

Welcome to our 11th annual plant sale! It's time to purchase and plant beautiful and hardy flowers, shrubs, and trees for your home or business. The sale is a partnership with the Grow Native! program through the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Vendors are available to sell and provide you with answers to your native planting questions.

March 26, 2016 10 AM–2 PM

Vendors: (vendors that are highlighted are taking preorders.)

- Forrest Keeling - Elsberry 1.880.356.2401
Specialty: Trees and Shrubs
- Longfellow's Garden Center - Centertown 573.584.9611
www.longfellowsgarden.com
- Missouri Wildflowers Nursery - Jefferson City 573.496.3492
- Prairie Hill Farm - Auxvasse
- Pure Air Natives - Wentzville (seeds only)
- Smiling Sun Gardens - Springfield
- SunRise Gardens, LLC - Columbia



Ask the Native Plant Expert:

Dennis Figg - owner of Greener Gardens Take this opportunity to have your native plant questions answered. Dennis is available to assist you in plant choice, installation, and maintenance of your purchase. Don't miss the sale or the free advice.

Nature in the Arts:

Ann Grotjan - potter and sculptor Ann will be demonstrating pottery using nature as her inspiration. Merchandise will be available for purchase.

Exhibit:

Missouri's Wildflower Wonders - Leslie Limberg Missouri has a staggering diversity of wildflowers. From the minuscule 5-inch Spring beauty to the 8-foot tall Cup plant. All are unique and worthy of hanging in an art gallery.

Exhibitor:

Lincoln University Jefferson City's own Native Plant Program (NPP) at Lincoln University will provide information on host plants for butterflies, and offer demonstrations to prepare an ornament to celebrate spring. Food samples with native edibles will be provided as well as information about the NPP and how you can be involved.